
**IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
ASPECTS, IMPACTS AND SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS**

1.0 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This procedure describes minimum requirements for conducting periodic identification and assessments of the environmental aspects and related significant impacts of the activities, products and services associated with major operations in the City of San Diego's Environmental Services Department (ESD) Refuse Disposal Division (RDD). The annotated, operations-specific matrices described by this procedure, which document such determinations, are key references that are considered in the establishment of environmental objectives, targets and programs in conformance with procedure SEOP 4.3.3, "Establishment of Environmental Objectives and Targets."

2.0 DEFINITIONS

Environmental Impacts - are defined as any change to the environment, whether adverse or beneficial, wholly or partially resulting from an organization's activities, products or services.

Environmental aspects - are defined as those elements of the Refuse Disposal Division's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment.

Significant environmental aspects - are those environmental aspects that have, or can potentially have, a substantial positive or negative impact on the environment based upon the criteria for significance presented herein.

Significance Criteria -The Refuse Disposal Division will define its own criteria to determine which aspects are "significant" and which are not. Additionally, all those aspects of the RDD operation within the scope of this procedure that are regulated by law will be classified as significant aspects.

Major operations - are defined as the RDD sections supervised by the senior staff. These areas include the Miramar Landfill Fee Booth, Disposal Operations, Landfill Capacity Development, Landfill Gas Management, Biological Services, RDD Administration, Surface Maintenance (NPDES), Groundwater Monitoring, and the Greens Processing Area.

Environment - is defined as the physical surroundings in which Refuse Disposal Division operations perform or discharge, including air, water, land, natural resources, flora, fauna, humans and their interrelationships.

3.0 RESPONSIBILITY AND AUTHORITY

3.1 Environmental Management Representative (EMR) - is responsible, along with the Environmental Management Team, for developing and performing a periodic (at least annual) review and update of annotated, operations-specific matrices that define the environmental aspects which are associated with RDD's operations. The EMR is also responsible for ensuring that such reviews are completed in time to support the generation or refinement of objectives and targets (see procedure SEOP 4.3.3) and annual RDD planning and budgeting activities.

3.2 Environmental Management Team (EMT) - is responsible for compiling and revising the environmental survey and significance aspect criteria matrix. The team will prioritize those aspects whose impacts are identified as significant for setting RDD's annual targets and objectives. These findings and recommendations will then be forwarded to the Deputy Director for approval.

3.3 Section Managers - Section Managers are responsible for assisting the Environmental Management Representative (EMR) and Environmental Management Team (EMT) in the annual review of the aspects, impacts, and significant aspects associated with the processes and activities within their respective sections. Section Managers are also responsible for assisting the EMR /EMT in the development and annual update of the Process Flow diagrams that apply to the operations within their sections.

3.4 Deputy Director, RDD - is responsible for reviewing and approving all revisions of the compiled environmental aspects matrices, prior to their being used in the establishment of annual environmental objectives and targets or in the development of RDD budgets.

4.0 PROCEDURE

The procedure consists of the following steps, which are summarized graphically in Figure 1:

4.1 Process flow diagrams will be developed and updated as appropriate by each Section Manager. Section Managers will coordinate input to their process maps from their respective staffs. Input from all staff members is highly encouraged. All activities that could have a potential environmental impact will be identified. Each of the RDD's activities, products and services are considered, including (where appropriate):

- engineering/planning or service strategy (administration, design, procurement, etc.);
- operations and preventative maintenance;
- product distribution;
- onsite vendor or contractor services; and
- onsite support services i.e., dust control, road maintenance, fuel operations, litter control, etc.

Activities, products and services may be grouped together so that those with similar characteristics can be evaluated concurrently.

4.2 An initial environmental survey shall be conducted by all sections of the RDD and will solicit input from all employees. Section Managers will conduct this survey with assistance from the EMR and EMT. This survey will utilize the process flow diagrams as well as any other information that may indicate impacts to the environment as a result of RDD operations. Aspect and Impact information will be recorded on the current version of the environmental survey form (EMS-01). Download the current version from the division's website at: <http://www.sannet.gov/environmental-services/miramar/index.shtml>. Look under "forms/EMS".

4.3 After this initial survey, the EMR and EMT, with input from each Section Manager and their respective staffs, will assume responsibility for developing and updating the environmental aspects information that relates to RDD's activities. Tools, which can be used, include process flow diagrams, environmental surveys (aspect survey), etc.

4.4 On at least an annual basis, reviews of the environmental aspects associated with the activities, services, and (as appropriate) products of each major operation (as previously defined in Section 2.0) shall be completed by the EMR or designee with the assistance of the EMT. Review results shall be compiled for each major operation in order to facilitate the establishment of appropriate Division-specific environmental objectives and targets prior to annual ESD budgeting activities (see 4.3.3, SEOP "Establishment of Environmental Objectives and Targets"). At a minimum, aspect reviews at each major section shall consider existing or potential:

- air emissions,
- solid waste management,
- resource consumption,
- water and power consumption,
- storm water and groundwater,
- soil and land impacts,
- hazardous waste,
- noise and odor (Table 1).

4.5 Aspects which could be considered to have a significant positive or negative impact on the environment in routine conditions, or negative impacts in reasonably foreseeable emergency situations or abnormal operating conditions shall be specifically identified (See Table 2). The effects of regulatory actions or changes, or other operations changes, shall also be considered.

4.6 Significant impacts will be determined through a multi-step process as follows:

- Identification of impacts to the environment, as a result of RDD's activities and processes, using the RDD Environmental Survey form (Table 1),

- Comparison of each aspect against the significance criteria data presented on the Significance Criteria Data Sheet (Table 2),
- Prioritization based on scale and severity of those aspects whose impacts are identified as significant for setting RDD's annual objectives and targets (Table 3). These findings and recommendations will then be forwarded to the Deputy Director for approval.

4.6 The EMR or designee shall prepare or update environmental aspects survey tally sheets for all major operations. These tally sheets shall compile and summarize the results of the evaluations discussed in Steps 1 and 2 and using the format shown in Tables 1, 2 and 3. Commercial database software or other tools may be used to develop, revise and maintain the aspects survey tally sheets, provided that the general requirements for content noted in Tables 1, 2 and 3 are met.

4.7 The EMR shall submit completed environmental aspects tally sheets for review by the Deputy Director, Refuse Disposal Division. All comments shall be resolved to the reviewer's satisfaction, and the document updated accordingly.

4.8 The approved tally sheets shall be distributed as controlled documents as necessary to support the development or update of annual environmental objectives and targets, in compliance with SEOP 4.3.3. Controlled distribution procedures shall comply with Section 4.4.5 of the RDD *Environmental Management Plan*. Distribution shall include the Deputy Director, Section Managers, the EMR, and other key individuals as designated by the EMR or otherwise requested by Refuse Disposal Division or ESD management.

4.9 Record copies of all versions of section-specific environmental aspects surveys shall be retained as environmental records in compliance with Section 4.5.3 of the RDD *Environmental Management Plan*.

5.0 REFERENCES

RDD SEOP 4.3.3 "Environmental Objectives and Targets"
 RDD SEOP 4.4.5 "Document Control"
 RDD SEOP 4.5.3 "Records"

Prepared by: Environmental Management Representative
Reviewed by: Process Team, Core Team

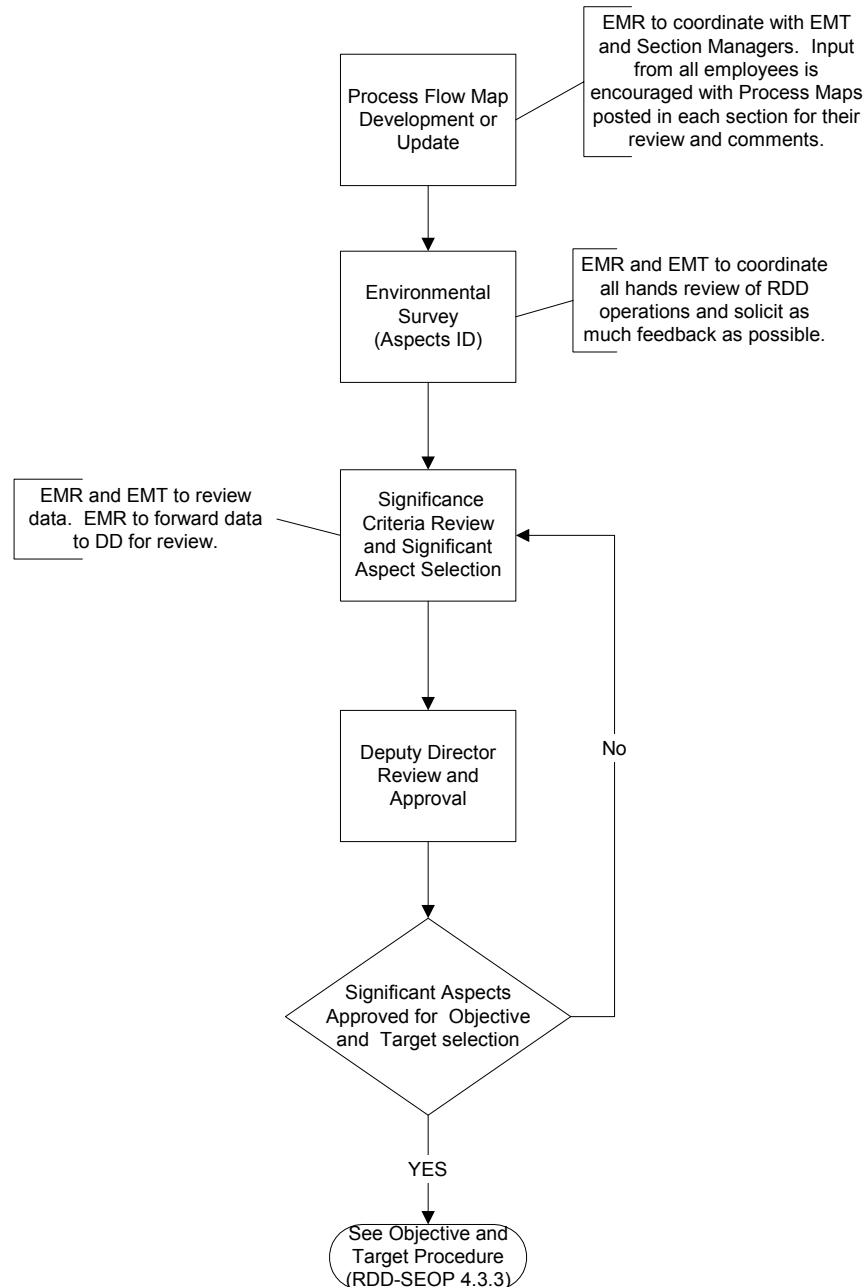
Approved by: Steven F. Fontana
 Deputy Environmental Services Director, Refuse Disposal Division

The on-line version and secured hardcopy are the controlled documents. The secured hardcopy will be identified by a "Controlled Copy" stamp (in red) and RDD Deputy Director signature. Any other documents are uncontrolled. Verify revision level status on-line or contact the EMR.

City of San Diego
 Environmental Services Department
 Refuse Disposal Division

Standard Environmental Operating Procedure
 RDD-SEOP 4.3.1, Revision 2
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IDENTIFICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS AND SIGNIFICANT IMPACTS (RDD SEOP 4.3.1)





(TABLE 1)



Refuse Disposal Division Environmental Survey

Section: _____ Activity: _____ Process Map #: _____
 Employee: _____ Date Surveyed: _____

Place a (+) or (-) Next To The Environmental Impact

Item No.	Activity, Product or Service	Source of Impact (Aspect)	Air	Habitat	Storm Water	Soil/Land	Groundwater	Hazardous Waste	Solid Waste	Resource Consumption	Water Consumption	Power Consumption	Noise	Odor	Other (See Back)

Time Required To Complete Survey _____



(TABLE 2)

REFUSE DISPOSAL DIVISION
SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA



PRIORITY	ATTRIBUTE	SIGNIFICANCE MEASURE	ACTIVITY PERIOD
1	Regulated	Any activity or element of an activity that is controlled by local, state or federal laws that can result in fines, violations, Cease and Desist Orders, Corrective Action Requests, etc. if not properly managed.	Normal Ops ____ Abnormal Ops ____ (Emergency)
2	Scale and Severity	A potential situation that could be expected to cause an adverse environmental and/or human health impact (e.g. toxic and/or hazardous substances, spills and releases, etc.).	Normal Ops ____ Abnormal Ops ____ (Emergency)
3	Natural Resource Conservation	A resource conservation effort that results in a positive environmental impact upon implementation (e.g. water use, fuel use, solid waste, energy use, etc.).	Normal Ops ____ Abnormal Ops ____ (Emergency)
4	Concerns of Interested Parties	<u>Complaints:</u> Any activity or element of an activity that results in a complaint that reaches the Deputy Director or higher authority. <u>Public Perception:</u> Any potential situation or occurrence that is newsworthy (Likely to make the paper or evening news if it occurs).	Normal Ops ____ Abnormal Ops ____ (Emergency)

